Flanders, and in any case the statement is not generally true of the later Middle Ages, when there was certainly a wage-earning proletariate in Germany also (see'Lamprecht, *Zum Verstdndniss der wirthschaftlichen und sozialen Wandlungen in Deutschland vom* 14. *zum* 16. *Jahrhundert,* in the *Zeitschrift fur Sozial- und Wirthschaftsgeschichte,* vol. i, 1893, pp. 191-263), and even, though on a smaller scale, in England.

*[l] *The Crete Sentence of Curs Expouned,* chap, xxviii *(Select English Works of Wyclif,* ed. T. Arnold, vol. iii, p. 333). The passage contains comprehensive denunciations of all sorts of combination, in particular, gilds, " men of sutel craft, as fre masons and othere," and " marchauntis, groceris, and vitileris " who " conspiren wickidly togidre that noon of hem schal bie over a certeyn pris, though the thing that thei bien be moche more worthi" *(ibid.,* pp. 333, 334).

Wyclif's argument is of great interest and importance. It is (i), that such associations for mutual aid are unnecessary. No special institutions axe needed to promote fraternity, since, quite apart from them, all- members of the community are bound to help each other: "AUe the goodnes that is in thes glides eche man owith for to do bi comyn fraternyte of Cristendom, by Goddis comaundement."

(2} That combinations are a conspiracy against the public. Both statements were points in the case for the sovereignty of the unitary State, and both were to play a large part in subsequent history. They were used by the absolutist statesmen of the sixteenth century as an argument for State control over industry, in place of the obstructive torpor of gilds and boroughs, and by the individualists of the eighteenth century as an argument for free competition.

The line of thought as to the relation of minor associations to the State runs from Wyclif to Turgot, Rousseau, Adam Smith, the Act of the Legislative Assembly in 1792 forbidding trade unions (" Les citoyens de m£me 6tat ou profession, les ouvriers et

compagnons d'un art quelconque ne pourront . . . former des rSglements sur leurs pr6tendus int6r£ts comnmns "), and the English Combination Acts.

[22] *Kayser Sigmunds Reformation alley Stdnden des Heiligm Rdmischen Reichs,* printed by Goldast, *Collectio Constitutionum Imperialism,* 1713, vol. iv, pp. 170-200. Its probable date appears to be about 1437. It is discussed shortly by J. S. Schapiro, *Social Reform and the Reformation,* 1909, pp. 93-9.

[23] Martin Saint-L6on, *op. cit.,* p. 187. The author's remark is made *d propos* of a ruling of 1270, fixing minimum rates for textile workers in Paris. It appears, however, to be unduly optimistic. The fact that minimum rates were fixed for textile workers must not be taken as evidence that that policy was common, for in Engiaad, and probably in France, the textile trades received special treatment, and minimum rates were fixed for them, while maximum rates were